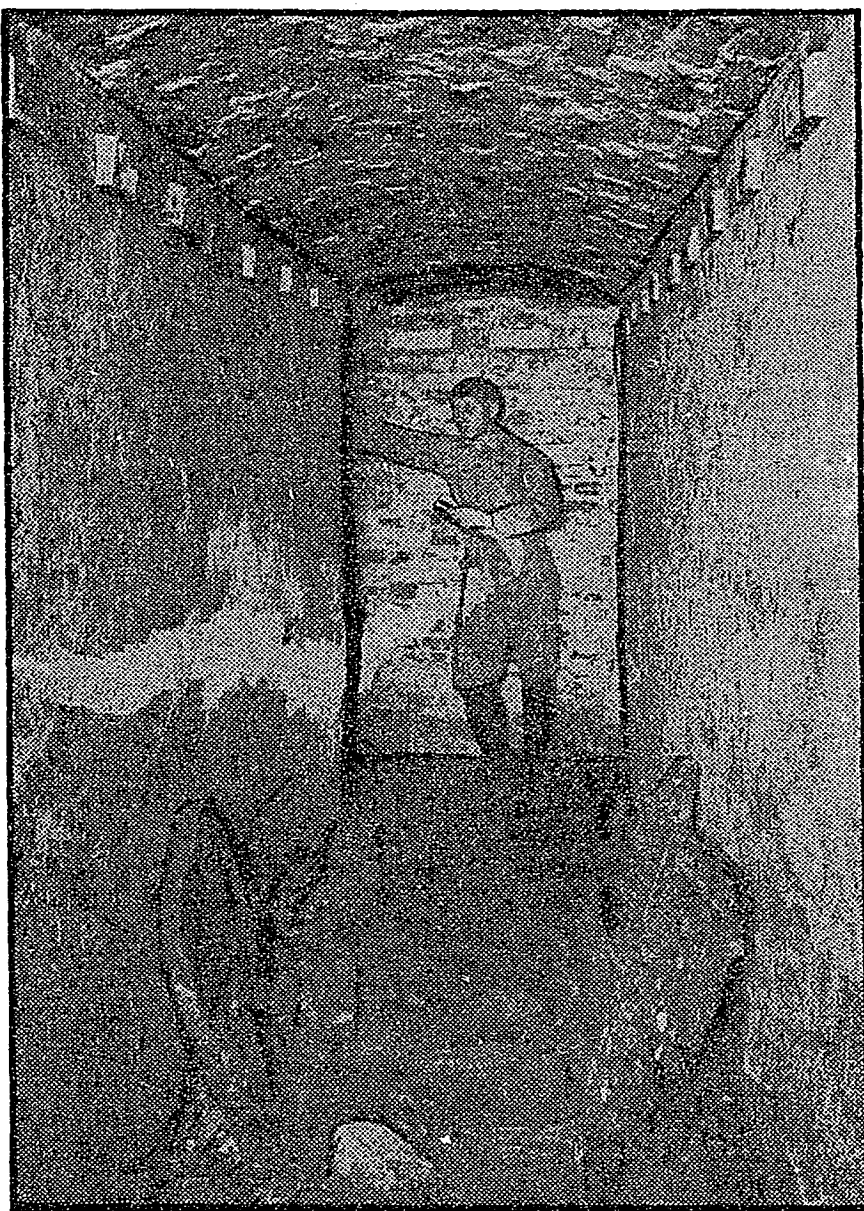


INVESTIGATOR EXPLORING TUNNEL



Hugh Miller, Post Staff Photographer

Beneath Washington's exclusive residential section German spies, bootleggers and whatnot are believed to have found their retreat. Here is pictured a turn in the tunnel that is believed to have extended from a lot adjacent to the Pelham Courts to Rock Creek. One of the exploring party is at the turn.

Old Tunnel Here Believed To Have Been Used By Teuton War Spies and Bootleggers

**Labyrinth Extending Hundreds of Feet Under Exclusive P Street Section Revealed When Truck Sinks Into Entrance Back of Pelham Courts.
Walls Made of Enameled Brick.**

Extending underground at least 500 feet, a labyrinth of subterranean passages, long since forgotten, were uncovered yesterday in the rear of Pelham Courts apartments, 2115 P street northwest. In the course of the world war the tunnels are believed to have been used by German spies, and more recently as a liquor cache by bootleggers.

This underground labyrinth lies in the very center of Washington's exclusive residential section. One of its ramifications is believed to extend from a vacant plot of ground in the rear of the Pelham Courts apartments, to within several hundred feet of the residence of Larz Anderson, former Ambassador to Japan, whose home is at 2118 Massachusetts avenue.

Skirting the stables of Edward B. McLean, in the rear of 2124 Massachusetts avenue, the tunnel is thought to have an outlet on Twenty-second street half a block away.

The bringing to light of the subterranean passages, which run through the earth for a distance of two blocks at least, was made yesterday by Bishop Hill, of the real estate firm of Moore & Hill, 730 Seventeenth street northwest, assisted by Randolph Green, colored janitor of Pelham Courts apartments.

A business transaction in the neighborhood enabled Mr. Hill accidentally to find the entrance to the strange labyrinth of tunnels on a lot behind the apartment house. Last week, the wheels of a large automobile truck sank through the earth at that point, leaving a gaping hole. Some curiosity was expressed at the time but it was soon forgotten.

Mr. Hill decided to explore. With the janitor, Green, he penetrated into the black passageway yawning before him, and found he could stand upright below ground. Satisfied with his experiment, he left

CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.

TUNNEL DISCOVERED HERE BELIEVED USED BY SPIES

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

the hidden passages, but returned with friends and excavating tools.

In the second expedition were Mr. Hill, Jasper Du Bose, 2640 Garfield street northwest; Charles Stone, jr., 2021 Massachusetts avenue northwest; a Washington Post reporter; two photographers from this paper; Randolph Green, the janitor, and another colored man, carrying picks and shovels. All the party were equipped with searchlights and lanterns. A boy in the neighborhood volunteered to go with the searching party.

Descending through the opening made by the wheels of the truck, the searchers stood in a passageway high enough and broad enough for a man to walk with ease. The tunnel was perfectly constructed and an architect who viewed it said its proportions were correct. One of the most astounding features of the place was the fact that the walls were carefully, even artistically formed of white enameled brick, pronounced valuable by builders.

On the ceiling were pasted numerous copies of German newspapers dated during the summer of 1917 and in 1918. Dimly seen in the feeble rays of the electric torches, it was yet possible to discern in the newspaper articles frequent reference to submarine activities then employed by the imperial government of Germany. Cryptic signs and engravings in cipher defaced the papers to some extent.

Other German periodicals and scores of empty bottles also were brought to light by the investigators. About midway of the principal passage an iron ladder, rusted but firm, extended downward into the earth. Two and a half hours' digging with pick and shovel uncovered several more rungs of the ladder and revealed part of a cement arch, showing that the mysterious labyrinth connected with hidden apartments still farther down.

Searching along the floor of the same passage, a rock jutting out of the ground attracted the attention of the party. Dug up, it was discovered to be one of many forming a veritable wall that spread beneath the earth for a distance of perhaps eight feet. This discovery, it was thought, proved that the labyrinth extended down two flights.

In some instances it was possible to walk upright in the main passages without bending one's head, but gradually the path narrowed and the exploring party was forced to worm its way forward on hands and knees. Then again the labyrinth widened into a sort of crossroads, with miniature avenues leading in three or four directions.

Electric wires with bulbs attached which were found in some sections of the tunnel would point

to its modern construction, but these devices are believed to have been introduced by recent occupants, probably bootleggers who preferred relative security beneath ground with a minimum of discomfort.

A crowd attracted by curiosity gathered at the entrance of the underground caves, and it was found necessary to place a guard in order to restrain them. Rumors concerning the strange discovery had spread in the neighborhood and persons in the vicinity vied with one another in weird tales, stressing the eerie nature of the find.

Mr. Hill and his party remained underground more than three hours and every minute their discoveries became more remarkable. Although partly choked with dirt and rubbish, it could be seen that the ramifications of the labyrinth were greater than at first imagined. One of the outlets was blocked by a cement door which could not be opened. Another lead to a walled garden on Twenty-first street, while still a third arched passage, only partly explored, extends as far as the banks of Rock Creek.

One of the most authentic stories concerning the tunnels which could be gathered traces their origin to the civil war, when they may have been used for the protection of Confederate soldiers hiding in Washington. Subsequently, it is stated, the labyrinth came into the possession of Dr. Otto von Golph, a German chemist, who embellished and furnished them. The chemist then is believed to have employed the underground chambers as laboratories for his scientific experiments.

Use by Spies Suspected.

From Dr. Von Golph the labyrinth, according to the story, passed into the hands of spies, serving as a base of operations for persons under suspicion by the Federal government. Whether the proximity of residences belonging to well-known people aided the spies in their work is, of course, problematical, but it is certain the neighborhood prevented undue surveillance by the police.

Later the safety and immunity of arrest offered to bootleggers by such a retreat induced them to store large quantities of liquor in the improvised cellar, neighbors say. Recently a quantity of cases and boxes were removed from the tunnels, and bits of straw and torn labels that remain point to the existence of material usually used in the packing of fragile high-necked bottles containing Spanish wines and brandies.

The latter in the middle of the passage is thought to have been used as a means of transporting

cases of liquors to a hiding place at the bottom of the cache. Although difficult to reach on account of its depth and the large stones that constantly impede shovel and pick-ax, efforts will be made today to penetrate to the lowest recesses.

Indications are that the winding tunnels may lead to sections where their presence is not even suspected.

Mr. Hill declares he will continue investigating until important facts concerning occupants of the strange tunnels are brought to public attention. When the passages are cleared of debris, searching parties will be organized to examine in detail wall markings and other evidences of human occupancy.

So far no furniture has been discovered, but the state of preservation of the tunnels leads searchers to believe other clues of conspirators may be found in some of the lower apartments.

Immediately surrounding the area where the main entrance of the tunnel goes into the earth are the homes of many persons socially prominent. Among those on the south side of Massachusetts avenue whose residences overlook the entrance to the tunnel are Miss Mary E. Patten, living at 2122. The home of Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh is near by.

Large apartment houses and small stores bound the P street side of the discovery site. Pelham Courts and the Everett are among the apartment houses.

Chapin Brown, until recently attorney for the rent commission, occupies one of the houses on the east side of Twenty-second street which bound the area on the west. His home is at 1507. Almost directly facing the home of Larz Anderson is the town house of Mrs. Mary Scott Townsend, at 2121 Massachusetts avenue.